Focus Group on Art and Culture

1405. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCERT has set up a Focus Group on Art and Culture;

(b) if so, the objectives of this Focus Group in its curriculum for schools, etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which Government would fund schools to have music and other facilities for their students; and

(e) the details of such funding which would be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) constituted 21 Focus Groups in November 2004 including a Focus Group on "Art, Music, Dance and Theatre", with the aim to produce research based position papers providing a comprehensive review of existing knowledge and representing an awareness of the field reality, specially in rural schools. The main objective of production of research based position papers was to provide an accessible resource to curriculum designers and writers of textbooks and other materials including teacher guides.

The Focus Group on "Art, Music, Dance & Theatre", has concluded that the inclusion of art education in the curriculum of school education has certain important objectives apart from contributing significantly to the overall development of the child's personality. At pre-primary stage, all subjects should be taught through drawing, painting, clay modeling, role-play, dance, story telling, singing etc. At primary stage, the orientation should be towards art as a medium of self-expression. At upper primary & secondary stages, need is to aim at developing learner's awareness and interest in a wide variety of arts. At higher secondary stage, art education should be treated as a specialized subject.

(d) and (e) Art Education which includes music also, is a part of curriculum from Class VI to Class X of schools affiliated to Central Board

of Secondary Education (CBSE), and schools make their own arrangement to provide necessary facilities.

Implementation of free education to single girl child

†1406. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States in the country where the scheme of providing free education to single girl child has been implemented;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when this scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The CBSE in its circular dated 18.10.2005 addressed to its affiliated schools directed them to grant full waiver of fees (excluding meals and transportation fee) charged by them from class VI onwards to each girl student who is also the single child of her parents. Delhi High Court has issued an interim stay order on implementation of the circular and the matter is presently sub judice.

Decline in science education

1407. SHRI SANTOSH NAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree with the findings of the report by NCAER on decline in science education in the higher academic levels; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken to improve the situation in this regard;

(c) whether Government have made an appraisal of the existing schemes to promote science at the higher academic levels; if so, the reasons for the shortcomings as indicated in the aforesaid report; and

(d) the steps being taken to credibly improve the situation?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.